



To: HRRC

Agenda Item #: VIII.

From: Annie Coyle
Staff Liaison

Date: January 28, 2014

Subject: Correspondence and Petitions

Action ☐

Discussion ☐

Information ☒

Action Requested:
None.

Information / Background:

Attachment:

Official correspondence received since the last HRRC Meeting

Annie Coyle

From: Annie Coyle
Sent: Friday, December 27, 2013 9:05 AM
To: Arnie Bigbee (arnieb1@me.com); Jan Seidman; Jessi Kingston; John Cashmore; Laura Davis; Leslie Lagerstrom; Lisa Schaefer; Molly Haeg; Paige Harrington; Patrice Arseneault; Russell Stanton (stanton@ifo.org); Steve Winnick
Subject: FW: A letter for the Human Rights & Relations Commission

Good morning HRRC Commissioners –

Please see the note below from Arnie, as well as 2) a link to the letter he references, and 3) at the bottom of this email chain, a letter received at City Hall from Mark Eicher, all of which will be included in the Correspondence section of the January packet.

Letter: Everyone deserves to be accepted for who they are

<http://current.mnsun.com/2013/12/letter-everyone-deserves-to-be-accepted-for-who-they-are/>



Annie Coyle, City Manager Intern

952-826-0429 | Fax 952-826-0390
acoyle@EdinaMN.gov | www.EdinaMN.gov

...For Living, Learning, Raising Families & Doing Business

From: Arnold Bigbee [mailto:arnieb1@me.com]
Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 10:38 PM
To: Annie Coyle
Cc: Lisa Schaefer
Subject: Re: A letter for the Human Rights & Relations Commission

Annie, please share this w/ members of HRRC

Several weeks ago, a fast food restaurant opened in Bloomington. It is a franchise of a company owned by a person who advocates against members of the LGBT community. When the Sun Current published an article about the new business, a reader commented that the article failed to mention the company's expressed views toward members of the LGBT community.

A week later, two letters appeared saying the newspaper should not have been called out for their expression of negative views regarding members of the LGBT community.

A letter speaking out on behalf of acceptance, respect and full participation for every member of the LGBT community was prepared and signed by four members of the HRRC (Bigbee, Cashmore, Lagerholm & Winnick) and was in last week's Sun Current.

Arnie

Sent from Arnie Bigbee's iPad2

Cell: 612 804 4660

arnieb1@me.com

On Dec 20, 2013, at 1:19 PM, Annie Coyle <ajohnson@EdinaMN.gov> wrote:


Hi Arnie –

Please see below. This will be included in the Jan correspondence in the HRRC packet.

 **Annie Coyle, City Manager Intern**
952-826-0429 | Fax 952-826-0390
acoyle@EdinaMN.gov | www.EdinaMN.gov
...For Living, Learning, Raising Families & Doing Business

From: Lisa Schaefer
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 12:42 PM
To: Annie Coyle
Subject: FW: A letter for the Human Rights & Relations Commission


Do you know anything about this?

 **Lisa Schaefer, Human Resources Director**
952-826-0416 | Fax 952-826-0390
LSchaefer@EdinaMN.gov | www.EdinaMN.gov
...For Living, Learning, Raising Families & Doing Business

From: Lynette Biunno **On Behalf Of** Edina Mail
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 9:02 AM
To: Lisa Schaefer
Subject: FW: A letter for the Human Rights & Relations Commission

Hi Lisa,

For you??

 **Lynette Biunno, Receptionist**
952-927-8861 | Fax 952-826-0389
lbiunno@EdinaMN.gov | www.EdinaMN.gov
...For Living, Learning, Raising Families & Doing Business

From: mark eicher [<mailto:eicher.mark@live.com>]
Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2013 8:27 PM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: A letter for the Human Rights & Relations Commission

My name is Mark Eicher and I wrote the article that can be found here:
<http://current.mnsun.com/2013/12/letter-ok-chick-fil-story-lack-lgbt-mention/>.

I think your group was grossly out-of-line to write publicly that I need information and education in regards to the opinion I expressed in my letter. Please go back and read my letter again. I NEVER supported or rejected either side of the GLBT debate. I did not weigh in either way as to which side was right. I very clearly wrote my letter in defense of the editor for the Sun Current who was unnecessarily attacked by Anthony Bradford because they wrote an article other than the one Anthony wanted them to. Anthony wrote boldly that he is "offended" that they didn't write their article about the politics of Chick-fil-A. He calls the publication "irresponsible," and demands an apology and/or that future articles be written to express his opinion of the organization. This is simply an over-reaction, and that's exactly what

my letter says.

I clearly state in my writing that I don't care what side of the issue he takes. I don't care which way he votes, but I do find him misguided if he thinks writing strong language against the editor is the best way to represent his belief. You wrote a ridiculous line in your letter: "Everyone in our community – Planet Earth – deserves to be accepted, respected and have full participation." I was basically writing the same thing. The people who voted yes should not project hate at those who voted no. By equal measure, those who voted no should not go out of their way to make sure every publication writes about how terrible they are for voting yes. It doesn't make any sense for either side to say, "because I love everyone, I'm going to hate 'that' group of people." It goes both ways and people need to remember that standing for something doesn't mean you need to focus your energy on hating it's opposition. And neither side should seek out conflict with the other at every chance they get. Both sides can have an opinion and it's okay for the Sun Current to just write an article that doesn't intentionally spark controversy. I thought it was very rude of Anthony to pick on the editor and make demands of what they choose to write.

Then I read your letter today. I'm stunned that a group of adults made the decision to so carelessly throw my name into their letter. You wrote a lengthy reply about the unenlightened, and chose to call me out by name for my defense of the editor???? That seems highly misguided and down-right slanderous in my opinion. When you are writing about people and using them by name, take time to think. Consider what it was I wrote and whether it really needs a rebuttal. I said nothing hateful and didn't support or reject the opinion of either side. I instead wrote in defense of the editor and now you are writing about me publicly as though I'm a bigot. Wrongfully calling me out in writing like that really has the potential to damage my life personally and professionally. You should be ashamed of yourselves. As adults (not to mention public figures in our community), each of you should be ashamed.

Mark Eicher



Opinion

Letter: Everyone deserves to be accepted for who they are

By [Lisa Kaczke](#)

December 19, 2013 at 5:04 pm



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To the editor:

The letters by Mark Eicher and Bob Green provide an opportunity to enlighten readers (Sun Current story didn't need to mention LGBT," Dec. 5). The issue is not Chick-fil-A, rather it is the lack of respect and acceptance for GLBT persons.

First, both writers need to get some factual information about GLBT people. They are not choosing a "lifestyle," as Mr. Green implied. A visit to the public library or with staff at Outfront Minnesota or students at their community high schools who are members of the Gay-Straight Student Alliance are excellent learning resources.

Second, when any person or group of persons among us is treated differently for being who they are, that is discrimination. It may begin with, "I don't agree with you" but often moves to "I don't want you here" and "you don't belong here." Then there is the bullying, both verbal and physical, and a cycle of behaviors that can have tragic consequences for the bullied and the bully.

Third, and most important, we are all together on this planet and it works best when we lock arms together to deal with everyday things – good health, adequate nourishment, good education, a warm place to sleep and a job that enables us to support ourselves and our families. Everyone in our community – Planet Earth – deserves to be accepted, respected and have full participation.

Arnie Bigbee

John Cashmore

Steve Winnick

The letter writers, all Edina residents, are members of the Edina Human Rights and Relations Committee.

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Letter: David Golstein willing to work hard

AdChoices 

Mark Eicher

My name is Mark Eicher and I wrote the letter found here:

<http://current.mnsun.com/2013/12/letter-ok-chick-fil-story-lack-lgbt-mention/>

The authors above seem out of line to say I need enlightenment and education when all I wrote in my letter was that Anthony Bradford over-reacted and wrongfully scolded the editor for their original story. My letter in no way takes any stance on GLBT issues and does not

indorse or condone the opinions of either side. I simply wrote that people should not be outraged by an unbiased article with no political motivations and that it's unnecessary for Mr. Bradford to demand and dictate re-writes to the editor.

The letter above closes by saying, "Everyone in our community – Planet Earth – deserves to be accepted, respected and have full participation." That's really just a hippie, obnoxious way of saying the same thing I was saying. It's alright to have an opinion. It's okay if people disagree. People don't need to demonize everyone with an opposing viewpoint and you should project hate at anyone. The people who voted yes shouldn't hate the people who voted no. By equal measure, the people who voted no don't need to go out of their way to make sure that the people who voted yes are written about negatively.

Stop being offended people – and don't sensationalize my letter by lumping it into your reply.

Mark Eicher